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MEMOIR

—OF—

THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D., LL. D.

PREPARED BY DIRECTION

—OF THE—

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS

—OF—

American Institutions for the Insane,

—BY—

JOHN CURWEN, M. D.,
CHARLES H. NICHOLS, M. D.,
JOHN H. CALLENDER, M. D.,

READ AT THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION AT

SARATOGA, NEW YORK, JUNE 16, 1885.

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AT the meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, held in Philadelphia on May 13, 1884, and the following days, the following proceedings were had in relation to DR. THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, one of the original members of the Association and so prominent in its councils during the whole term of its existence :

Dr. Curwen offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That in the death of our fellow-member, Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, this Association has lost one of its ablest associates, who, during the whole period of its existence had given to it most earnest and devoted thought and attention, and whose counsels were always wise, cautious and most enlightened.

A kind, warm-hearted and sympathizing friend, a faithful and prudent counsellor, a genial and cheerful companion, and a most able, laborious and devoted physician and superintendent; no one who was privileged to know him in these relations can fail to feel the great blank which has been made by his removal.

Privileged to continue in active, continuous service longer than any other member, his latest thoughts were given to the consideration of those things which would most benefit those for whom, for more than forty years, he had thought and labored.

DR. CURWEN: I move, also, that the President appoint a committee to prepare a memorial of Dr. Kirkbride, to be preserved in the minutes of the Association.

DR. GRAY: The resolution is before the Association.

DR. GRISSOM: Mr. President—In this connection I desire to lay before the Association a resolution adopted by the Board of

Directors of the North Carolina Asylum at Raleigh. Dr. Kirkbride's reputation, fame and service, outside of the State of Pennsylvania, are, perhaps, nowhere better appreciated than in the State which I represent. During his career, he not only had a large number of patients from that State, but was always ready to aid by wise counsel in matters pertaining to the provision for and treatment of the insane.

The resolutions were then read by the Secretary as follows :

Whereas, The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Insane Asylum have heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of Dr. Kirkbride, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board desires to express and record its sense of appreciation of the eminent services rendered to humanity by Dr. Kirkbride, during his half century of service as Superintendent of asylums for the insane.

That the unfortunate insane have been deprived of a great, kind and tireless friend, and the managers of asylums of a wise benefactor and teacher.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased as a mark of condolence for their personal bereavement, to the authorities of the Institution over which he presided with such signal success, and to the Assembly of Superintendents soon to meet.

North Carolina Insane Asylum,
Raleigh, N. C., May 5, 1884.

Dr. Grissom : Mr. President and gentlemen of this Association—When the garlands of remembrance are hung at the door of the tomb of such a man as Dr. Kirkbride, the State which I have the honor to represent thinks it eminently proper that a spray of cypress should be offered from the South. It is good for us to pause and reflect upon the lesson which his example teaches, and to think of a life which for more than half a century was the sweet, serene pathway of a good man, intent upon his duty, with a heart warm with love for his fellow-men, and a spirit as true to the demands of virtue and honor as the needle to

the pole. It is almost an act of supererogation to speak in this or any other community of Dr. Kirkbride's fame. His name in medical annals and councils has long been honored as a household word ; and his memory around thousands of firesides will be cherished with the veneration of a Roman's reverence for his household god. This sun in the firmament of our specialty, whose bright and brilliant rays in the early morn of its career scattered wide and far the mists of mental gloom, and which shone with genial and gentle warmth through the long summer day, unobscured by a single cloud, has at last calmly and majestically set, leaving a surrounding afterglow, soft and beautiful, lingering upon the horizon of its career reluctant to vanish from the scene of its glory. Let us thank God that we have been permitted to witness this example of greatness and goodness, shining through such a long life of usefulness and unselfishness. Let us honor the memory and practice the virtues of this sage, who moved among his followers like a genius, holding the volume of accumulated wisdom and dispensing with a modesty all his own, from the abundance of that knowledge which experience collects and diligence preserves. We are wont to praise the gallant mariner who rescues a drowning man ; Grace Darling will live forever in story and in song ; but how can pen or tongue tell the tale of this gray-haired hero, whose career was one life-long struggle to save from despair those imprisoned spirits upon whom the world had already set the grave-stone of oblivion ?

"To dumb forgetfulness a prey."

Think how this man of delicate frame and soft and gentle speech, stood for a lifetime on the ocean-side of misfortune where the mental wrecks of numerous victims were tossed by the waves, and with cool head and unshrinking nerve rescued from destruction their frail barks and wafted them once more with Reason at the helm and Hope at the prow, to seek yet again a prosperous voyage and a peaceful haven. Clothed and in their right minds, those to whom the precious jewels of man's inheritance have been restored, bring to-day the brightest gems that sparkle in their mental crown, to adorn the shrine of Kirkbride's fame. His mission was at last ended. He died, but not unexpectedly. He kept his lamp trimmed and oil burning, for the

coming of the bridegroom. He cherished a constant remembrance of another life than this, another judge than man, another ordeal than human opinion.

He did his duty at all times, in all places, to all men, and he enjoyed a wealth of noble thoughts, memories of noble actions and hopes of a noble felicity. We have on this occasion mingled emotions of sorrow and gladness. We mourn that Dr. Kirkbride is dead; we rejoice that Dr. Kirkbride *can never die*. That omnipotent Providence which overrules our destinies has only removed from this to a higher state of existence a good man, a kind father, a loving husband, a faithful friend, a pure patriot, a distinguished philanthropist, an eminent physician, a sincere Christian. In this dispensation we lose a companion, his family a protector, the poor a benefactor, the afflicted a comforter, society an ornament, philanthropy an instructor, the profession a votary, religion an exemplar. But our temporal loss is his eternal triumph. So dear to him did the path of duty become, from long years of faithful habit, that as age gently withered his strength he tottered on toward honor and immortality. He went down to the grave calmly and without a fear. His example will teach on earth while his spirit rejoices with God.

Dr. Earle: As I cannot trust my organs of speech upon such an occasion, I wish simply to say that I entirely and most cordially approve of the resolution and the remarks that have been made.

Dr. Gray: Gentlemen of the Association—Before putting this motion I would like to add a few words to what has already been said in regard to Dr. Kirkbride. I first knew him more than thirty-five years ago, when I was a student in this city and was in a hospital here. I knew him then in association with other young men, as a friend of young men. With age, dignity and position, he was remarkably accessible to young men. It seemed to give him the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to advance them and encourage them. From that date to the time of his death I knew Dr. Kirkbride well as a friend, and the elo-

quent remarks of Dr. Grissom have appropriately portrayed the beautiful character of this distinguished physician and superintendent. As Dr. Grissom has said, he was delicate in person, apparently frail in physical structure, but he possessed a large spirit. He was a man of great energy, great vigor of thought and action, though generally quiet in his movements. He seemed to be a natural leader in his profession. Men followed him, listened to him, recognized him as a man of thought and reflection with a power of formulating his ideas distinctly and clearly, and of presenting them so plainly that I hardly recall an instance where his propositions were not accepted, because they were completed in his own mind before he presented them,—like the sculptor who fashions and perfects the figure before he unveils it to the world, so that they who see it hear not the sound of the hammer or chisel, nor see the dust produced in its formation, so Dr. Kirkbride wrought his work, fashioned in the mold of thought, and polished by experimental application, that it came perfect as from the hands of the workman.

When we look back through his history we must estimate him, not as though we judged him to-day, as though he had arisen now or within the last quarter of a century. It must be borne in mind he came upon the stage at a time when there was little that could be said in regard to the treatment of the insane. As we look back now we see that little had been done. We must go back with him as a man who framed (for he was one of its framers) the constitution, so to speak, under which this Association lives and acts. He was connected conspicuously with all the operations in organizing the Association, and with all of its fundamental resolutions and its great work from that day to this; his hand touched everything. More than this, in the institution to which he was so early appointed, years before the existence of this Association, he commenced the work of development of the structure of psychological medicine in this country,—building from within and building from without,—not alone a physical structure, but laying down principles for the guidance of those who might come after him. He was a progressive, yet conservative man, with that self-poise which kept him from being carried away by seeming advances, and with that patience of judgment

which led him to examine before approval or rejection, the ideas of others. He was among those who early recognized that the phenomena of disease were not made up from books, but only disclosed to the patient, toiling observer, in the light of experience.

He was himself a worker. The great utility of his life came from within ; his aims were high and pure, and he urged his opinions with a simplicity and earnestness and unselfishness which made them not only unanswerable but irresistible. Any one reading the memorial of his life and work, traced by the hand and heart of his accomplished wife, through the long years of his usefulness, cannot but be struck with the fact that he seems to have been associated with the origin and development of every advance made in the care of the insane. The narrative is, in fact, a compendium of the subject during the last half century, and Dr. Kirkbride stands as a foremost figure, especially in all that relates to the practical work accomplished in providing and organizing institutions of this class for our fellowmen.

As Dr. Grissom has said, he was not a man of this State nor of this great and good city ; he was a man of the world—whose name is written in every State and in every country in the characteristics which Dr. Grissom has so eloquently portrayed. A man of strong, firm character, of great decision of will, of sound judgment, of high purposes ; he was withal, the gentlest of men. He had a sweetness of manner which was like that of a woman, a tenderness of spirit which reached every man he met, and I venture to say there was no man with whom he came in contact that did not feel this. So he goes to rest ! But, as Dr. Grissom has well said, "Dr. Kirkbride can never die." His name will never perish from the earth while medical science and humanity have to consider the great questions which pertain to man and his welfare in this world and which reaches on towards the world to come.

Dr. Nichols : I feel quite unable to express my profound sense of the loss this Association and our common profession,

and all those bound to him by ties of blood and friendship, have sustained in the death of Dr. Kirkbride. One of the founders of this Association, he was its wise counsellor and strong support through every vicissitude of its past history until failing health compelled him to relinquish an active participation in its work. No member in the present or in the long past will or would, I believe, consider it invidious to give him preeminence in depth and constancy of interest in its welfare. His zeal for the wisdom of its course and for its reputation and usefulness, was both affectionate and conscientious. He never forgot this love. And his interest in the Association as a body that had long led the rapid advance of mental medicine on the western continent, was naturally reflected to its members upon whose wisdom and constancy its reputation and authority must at all times depend.

Every member of the Association could justly claim the honor of his friendship. I first saw Dr. Kirkbride at the place of his great life-work, the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, in March, 1843, during that happy period that intervenes between a successful examination for the degree of doctor of medicine and the public reception of the diploma. I did not see him again until the meeting of the Association in 1849, in the city of Utica, which I attended as a member, by virtue of my appointment a few weeks before to the charge of the Bloomingdale Asylum in the city of New York.

From that time till his lamented death—for more than a generation—our friendship was intimate and on my part, and as I believe on his, unbroken by the slightest relaxation in its warmth—much less in its constancy, and the counsel, moral support and happiness that I have derived from it I shall never be able to adequately acknowledge. I am quite unprepared to present either a critical or extended analysis of the opinions or labors of Dr. Kirkbride, but wish in a word to bear testimony to what always seemed to me the most conspicuous and admirable traits of his character. I refer to his remarkable fortitude and constancy, to which I think his useful and illustrious life is more attributable than to his abilities and attainments, which were

certainly of a high order. Other men have shown equal courage and resource in periods of danger or difficulty. Others have been equally conscientious and were able and learned, but for unswerving and untiring professional and administrative labor in much bodily weakness through many years of his life, in steady, calm, uncompromising adherence to what he considered right in the social order and in professional practice and relations, sometimes in later years against opposition and even obloquy in a community of which he had been a conspicuous benefactor, and in unfaltering trust in the Divine order and beneficence all through a long life, I consider him perhaps the most remarkable man it has been my fortune to know, and one of the most remarkable in history. Opinions in our specialty of medicine may be divided into two classes, those that are subordinate and affected by times and circumstances, and those that are more fundamental and constant. Those relating to many details of construction of hospitals and their management, in respect to which Dr. Kirkbride was so much of a pioneer in the specialty as to have been compelled to form his own opinions and practice, to which he tenaciously adhered, will undergo more or less change, but those relating to the amenability of insanity to early treatment, to the relative value of the skill in treatment that is based on observation and practice, and that that is based on reading and theory—not to say conceit,—to the claims of the poor insane to liberal public provision for their support and treatment and, above all, to the gentle, painstaking, patient care that the insane require, are fundamental and much less likely to change in practical minds. Upon these points Dr. Kirkbride entertained what I regard as sound and at the same time eminently humane and liberal views ; and I venture to predict that, in general, their wisdom will be sustained by time and experience.

Dr. Kirkbride has gone forever from the sight of his fellowmen, but his example of humanity, of industrious devotion to duty through a long life and of Christian character remains to us and to all coming generations, and I earnestly commend it to ourselves and to them as one that it will always be wise to follow.

Dr. Gray : Gentlemen, you have heard the resolution of Dr.

Curwen. Those in favor of the resolution will so signify by rising..

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Dr. Nichols, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to forward to the Directors of the North Carolina Insane Asylum the appreciation by the Association of the spirit which dictated the resolution in regard to Dr. Kirkbride.

On motion of Dr. Nichols, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to communicate to Mrs. Kirkbride so much of the resolution just adopted by this body as relates to her late husband, with the expression of the sympathy with which this Association unites with his kindred in lamenting his death and honoring his memory.

On the re-assembling of the Association, Dr. Everts said :

Mr. President : During the proceedings of the morning in relation to Dr. Kirkbride, I presume many other members of the Association, like myself, felt that silence was a more satisfactory expression of their feelings than anything else, and the matter passed without such notice as, I think, becomes this Association. I therefore move that a committee of three be appointed to whom shall be referred everything, in memoriam, respecting Dr. Kirkbride, and I wish distinctly to decline any place on the committee myself.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Nichols and unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Gray : As Dr. Everts has distinctly declined to be a member of that committee, the Chair would name Dr. Curwen, Dr. Nichols and Dr. Callender, as such committee. It is also understood, I believe, that Dr. Earle and others will communi-

cate in writing to the committee what they desire to say in regard to Dr. Kirkbride.

At the close of the sessions the following resolution drawn by Dr. J. H. Callender was unanimously adopted :

The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, about to terminate its meeting in this city, in which it was organized forty years ago, and in which it has held seven of its annual meetings, in the customary resolutions on the occasion is inspired by mixed emotions. The selection of Philadelphia for this meeting was mainly induced by the hope of the presence at its deliberations of one of its venerable and eminent founders, whose weight of years and declining strength was known to the membership—the late Thomas S. Kirkbride, M. D. The inscrutable wisdom of Providence has frustrated that hope. His face was not among us, but the memory of his abilities and his rare virtues was left to us to honor, and will be green as long as the Association shall survive.

MEMOIR.

In the company of those who left England with William Penn to seek greater liberty of conscience and freedom of worship, was a family from the northern part of the county of Cumberland, who settled on a farm on the beautiful banks of the Delaware river, in Pennsylvania, a few miles above what afterwards became the capital of New Jersey. On this farm on July 31, 1809, was born Thomas Story Kirkbride, who inherited and cherished the religious faith and strong love of freedom which had led his ancestor to leave his native land and settle in what was then a wild and unexplored section of the country.

The early years of our friend were spent on this farm, and from the pleasant surroundings and beautiful scenery which met the eye was early derived that love of the beautiful in nature and fondness for laying out and adorning the grounds which formed so marked a trait in his character.

His own account of his "schooling" is as follows: "1st, home, by my father, who had been a teacher for a short time; 2d, Morrisville; 3d, Fallsington, three miles distant, often walking in both directions, and at other times sent with some one connected with the farm; this continued for several years; 4th, Trenton, to the Classical Institution conducted by the Rev. Jared D. Fyler, a very accomplished scholar, and a teacher of rare

ability, remaining four years under his care, devoting the time to my classical studies, and then giving a year to the study of the higher mathematics, under the care of John Gummere, at Burlington, New Jersey. The greater part of the following year was spent at home, on my father's farm, in the practical pursuits which I felt in later years to have been a permanent advantage to my health. During this there was really considerable work done in practical farming, and in the case of various kinds of farm stock, especially sheep, of which my father had a large number, I took a special interest in these, and became so familiar with them as to recognize them by their physiognomy.

"At the close of this agricultural year I commenced reading medicine with Dr. Nicholas Belleville, a very distinguished physician and surgeon, who came to this country with the French forces under Lafayette in the Revolutionary war, and who was prevented returning to his country by his great suffering during his long voyage of more than sixty days,—so great, that he declared that nothing could tempt him to run the risk of having to undergo an equal period of sickness,—so that he decided to remain in the United States, and settled in Trenton, where he married. I was his last private pupil, and he devoted a large amount of time to my private instruction. He was a profound scholar, a great reader, and had a practical knowledge of his profession rarely equalled. I read in his office one year before attending my first course of lectures in the University of Pennsylvania, which was in the winter of 1828–9, attending the two subsequent years. I graduated in the Spring of 1832."

He graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in the Spring of 1832, and was very shortly afterwards appointed Resident Physician of the Asylum for the relief of those deprived of the use of their reason, at Frankford, remained there one year and was then elected Resident Physician of the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he remained two years, and had renewed opportunities of studying the subject of mental disorders in the department of that Hospital which, for eighty years, had been specially set apart for that class of disorders.

After leaving the Hospital he opened an office in Arch street, below Fifth street, and with a strong predilection for surgery he had intended to devote his attention to that branch. "It was during this period, that I began to look forward to securing at some future day the position of attending Surgeon of the Pennsylvania Hospital, having always felt that the place of clinical lecturer in that Institution, was one of the most honorable and useful that could be held by any individual, and in my estimation far more desirable to one who expected to be engaged in active professional life than a professorship in any medical school. My intimacy with the members of the Board of managers, and the friendly feelings they were kind enough to express in my favor, led me to believe that whenever a vacancy should occur in the place to which I aspired, I should have little difficulty in securing it. This did happen in 1840; when my intimate friend, Dr. J. Rhea Barton, resigned the position he had so long held as attending surgeon, he was kind enough to use his influence in my favor in filling the place he was about to leave, and from a majority of the Board of Managers I had assurance which left little doubt in my own mind, but that when the election was made, I should be the successful candidate.

"Just at this time, however, occurred one of those incidents that seem beyond the control of men, and which changed the whole course of my life. One summer morning while walking on Race Street, I met my friend John Paul, an active and most useful member of the Board of Managers, who asked me with apparent interest, what would induce me to go over the river, to take charge of the new Hospital for the Insane. To this I replied, that he was well aware that I was looking forward to another position, and for which I had been preparing myself during my professional life, and which I now seemed to have a reasonable prospect of securing; 'and besides,' said I, 'there are one or two other gentlemen who would like the place, and who have personal friends in the Board of Managers, and one of whom, at least, would seem to have claims that I have not, from the long services of his father in connection with the Institution.' 'Yes,' said he, 'I am aware of all that, but, at any rate take the matter into consideration.' I told him I would do so

and see him before any long period should elapse. It was a matter for very serious consideration. Certain things were obvious to me; that there never had been such an opening for a surgeon in Philadelphia and hardly ever would be again. At the same time the labor attendant upon the successful practitioner of private surgery, and of hospital surgery in addition, must necessarily be great and would demand more than ordinary good health. My professional friends, especially Dr. Rhea Barton, regarded such a change in my plans as ill-advised, and for which I could hardly find a justification. On the other hand, I saw that from the first I was to have a comfortable residence, a rather liberal salary, the opportunity of starting a new institution, and developing new forms of management, in fact giving a new character to the care of the insane, and possibly securing for myself a reputation as desirable as that which I might obtain by remaining in the city. Besides my parents favored my accepting this new office as being a certainty in place of an uncertainty, and, beyond all else, my young wife approved the plan, knowing as she did, that a successful city practice must necessarily keep me most of my time from home, while the care of the Hospital for the Insane would be sure to keep me somewhere on its premises. When I called upon Friend Paul ultimately, therefore, I told him that I had decided that in case I was elected without any application on my part, or my having to see any of the Managers, and with a promise of a salary that had been mentioned by another applicant, I would consent to accept the position. The election for Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane taking place on the 12th of October, before that for the vacant place of Surgeon to the Hospital at Eighth and Pine Streets, necessarily involved an abandonment of my application for the latter position. The election took place on the day named, and my election was made in the way I had mentioned to the friend who had sought my acceptance of the position."

After examining the several institutions for the insane which had been constructed during the last few years previous to that date, he entered on the duties of the new position on the first day of January, 1841, and the first patient was received on January 9, 1841, and in a short time all the insane from the hospital

in Pine street were transferred to the new Institution. He gave himself, mind and heart, to the duties of his position, and his zeal and enthusiasm for the welfare of the insane never slackened so long as life endured.

Any one who will read the report of the first year of his administration will see clearly laid down the principles which guided and governed in all the years which followed; and enlarged experience, a more thorough knowledge and more ample means enabled him with each succeeding year, to add to the resources of the Hospital and the more thorough treatment, medical, hygienic and moral, of those committed to its care. In the earlier years of the Institution great attention was given to laying out, adorning and the careful improvement of the grounds within the enclosure, embracing forty-one acres, so that ample walks for exercise, pleasant drives and cheerful views and surroundings, might direct from morbid fancies to more healthful ideas. The attention given to these matters was the relaxation from more exacting and imperative duties, and gave that degree of out-door exercise which one, in the delicate physical condition and feeble digestion which troubled him at that time, so much required, to give tone and vigor to his whole system.

In October, 1844, the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane held its first meeting in Philadelphia, and Dr. Kirkbride was elected its first Secretary, and from that day to the close of his life, he always manifested the warmest interest in its welfare and progress, and took a very active part in all its proceedings, rarely being absent from a meeting.

The ablest deliverances of the Association on the construction and organization of Hospitals for the Insane and on kindred subjects were from his pen, and were so carefully and thoughtfully prepared that after the fullest discussion, by all the members, very little change was made in the phraseology and none in the sentiments or opinions advanced.

He was Secretary of the Association for seven years, Vice President for seven years, and President for eight years.

His position at the head of the oldest Institution for the Insane in the country, and at the centre of medical education, naturally drew to him all those who were anxious to learn the latest and best plans and arrangements for the construction and arrangement of hospitals for the insane. He was constantly consulted in the arrangements of the State Lunatic Asylum at Trenton, and to some extent in the plans of the State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg. These frequent consultations, joined with a natural fondness for architecture and building, led him to prepare his book on the construction of hospitals for the insane, the first edition of which appeared in 1856, and the second and enlarged edition in 1880, having been arranged and prepared for the press during the convalescence from a severe illness which lasted many months and brought him very close to the borders of the unseen world.

In no work in the English language are the true principles of the construction, arrangement, and organization of hospitals for the insane more lucidly and more thoroughly set forth than in the last edition of that book, and were its precepts obeyed and its plans more closely followed, very few of those mistakes would be made in the arrangement of hospitals which give so much trouble and are so costly in their rearrangement.

He early entertained the idea of the separation of the sexes in buildings under the same general management, and this plan was more fully developed in the report for 1854. He labored with the greatest assiduity to collect by private subscription the money needed for the erection of such a building on the part of the property west of the hospital then in operation, and so faithfully did he give himself to this work and so zealously was he supported by the Managers of the Hospital that the greater part of the money was subscribed, and "the first stone of the new building was laid on July 7, 1856.

"The formal laying of the corner-stone took place on the first of October, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gen-

tlemen; on which occasion addresses were made by Professor George B. Wood, M. D.; Richard Vaux, Mayor of Philadelphia; Mordecai L. Dawson, President of the Board of Managers, and Morton McMichael.

"The building was formally opened for the reception of patients on the twenty-seventh of October, 1859. The cost of the new Hospital with all its out-buildings, the wall surrounding its grounds, all its varied and expensive fixtures of every kind and the furniture in use, amounted to the sum of $355,907.57. This whole sum has been paid, or there are in hand abundant means for doing so, to be derived from unrealized subscriptions and from ground rents.

"The fact that this whole work has been provided and paid for entirely from private subscriptions is worthy of remembrance in our local history."

When the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg was appointed by Governor Wm. F. Johnston, in 1851, Dr. Kirkbride was one of the Board, and continued in service until 1862. He took an active and energetic part in the organization of that Hospital, and his long experience and thorough knowledge gave him an influence with his colleagues which he exerted to place that institution in the best possible condition for the promotion of the welfare of its inmates; and no man ever had a more faithful and efficient friend and counsellor in all matters than the Superintendent of that Hospital during his connection with it as Trustee. Of his connection with the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind for more than forty years, and the great interest manifested in the design and successful operation of that institution, and the great faithfulness displayed in the very constant attendance at all the meetings of the Managers, from few of which he was absent during the long period of his service, others can better speak who are intimately connected with it, but it may be permitted in this place to say from personal knowledge that, next to the Hospital

of which he was Superintendent, no institution held a higher place in his regard and affection.

He received from Lafayette College the Degree of LL.D. in recognition of his eminent ability and the remarkable services rendered to suffering humanity.

While Dr. Kirkbride, by reason of his great ability and calm, deliberate judgment, was called to the discharge of such important trusts, that to which his life was really devoted and by which he will always be best known, was as Superintendent and Physician-in-Chief of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. Assuming the administration of that trust with reluctance and hesitation of his own ability properly to discharge its duties in the spirit and in the manner in which he believed all such duties should be performed, he gave himself, mind and heart, to the work, in the spirit of his oft-repeated maxim—what was his duty, was his pleasure.

Association and friendship of the most intimate character, for almost forty years, and constant correspondence for more than thirty years, give to the writer an opportunity of an acquaintance with all his views on matters of common interest in the care of the insane, which enables him to speak in the most positive manner of what those views and opinions were. In every movement in medical societies, in the Legislature or in any other way which had a bearing on the care and treatment of the insane, Dr. Kirkbride, though not in all cases prominently before the public, was always consulted and his counsel and advice earnestly sought, and for thirty years, and these were years in which legislation was most active in that direction, no measure of any importance was enacted in the inception and progress of which he was not fully consulted in all the stages, and he never hesitated to use all his influence with those with whom it would be most effective, either in favor of any measure which might promote the welfare of, or against any which might be injurious to that class in which he was so greatly interested. A proper estimate of his life-work can best be obtained by a careful consid-

eration, in the briefest manner to render them clearly intelligible, of the various subjects which constantly and steadily claimed his thought and attention. No man ever gave more careful, assiduous, well directed and intelligent thought to all matters connected with the construction of hospitals for the insane, and the fact that the plan he elaborated, and which bears his name, has been incorporated in buildings from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains, clearly proves its thorough adaptation to the purpose. It has been the fashion with some, who, with no practical experience, have pushed themselves forward in matters connected with building hospitals, to decry the plan as behind the age ; but their plans have not yet been tried sufficiently long to prove their defects in all respects, and those defects will be found at the very points where they have departed from the well-considered details which he so carefully worked out.

"So different from ordinary buildings or other public structures are hospitals for the insane, that it is hardly possible for an architect, however skillful, or a board of commissioners, however intelligent and well disposed, unaided, to furnish such an institution with all the conveniences and arrangements indispensable for the proper care and treatment of its patients. Nothing but a practical familiarity with what is required can do this. All recent experiments in planning hospitals without consulting experts, or asking their opinions before the adoption of the plan, as should be expected, have proved failures. No desire to make a beautiful and picturesque exterior, should ever be allowed to interfere with the internal arrangements, any more than the wish to have an elevated and commanding site should be permitted to compel the provision of costly roads, and the expense and annoyance of having everything, in all future time, carried to its great elevation. The interior should be first planned, and the exterior so managed as not to spoil it in any of its details.

"Although it is not desirable to have an elaborate and costly style of architecture, it is, nevertheless, really important that the building should be in good taste, and that it should impress fav-

orably not only the patients, but their friends and others who may visit it. A hospital for the insane should always be of this character, it should have a cheerful and comfortable appearance, everything repulsive and prison-like should be carefully avoided, and even the means of effecting the proper degree of security should be masked, as far as possible, by arrangements of a pleasant and attractive description."

This is not the place, nor would time permit, to go into an elaborate description of the plan, but it may suffice to state that its main features consisted of a central building for all the administrative offices, with wings on each side; the first wing at right angles to the centre, and at the point of junction a space of ten feet left with windows from floor to ceiling to give ample light; the second wing parallel with the first, but thrown back so as to have windows from floor to ceiling at both ends of the hall, and the third wing still parallel to the second, and the windows of a similar character at both ends of the hall. From this fact of the wings running parallel with each other, it has been called also the linear plan. The halls of the wings are twelve feet wide, and the ceilings of each story twelve feet high; rooms on both sides of the hall, and in the centre of the hall large bay windows to give light, and afford a pleasant sitting-room for the inmates, in addition to the large parlor; every ward to have in it all those conveniences which may be requisite to promote the comfort and well-being of those for whose use the hospital is constructed. The whole establishment to be so arranged as to be under one roof and in every part to be as light, bright and cheerful as it is possible to have it, and with the object of promoting the comfort and convenience of all, with the least expenditure of time and labor.

Any one wishing to be thoroughly conversant with all the details of construction of hospitals for the insane, should read attentively this work on the construction and organization of hospitals for the insane. The work will be found most admirable for the clearness of all its statements on the different points, most thorough in its elaboration of details, and bearing in every

line the impress of a clear head, sound judgment and most intimate acquaintance with everything which can have a bearing on the promotion of the restoration, comfort and welfare of the insane, directed and guided by that earnest conscientiousness which was such a prominent trait in his character.

In forming an opinion on any subject he was never hasty, but submitted all to the careful scrutiny of a sound judgment, which led him to examine with a full knowledge of all the facts bearing on the point which could be obtained. A warm, generous heart, keenly alive to all the finer impulses of humanity, led him so to direct all his thoughts and actions that self had no prominence, but the good of others and the advancement of their happiness was the great aim and object of all his efforts. The more intimately his opinions, on every subject to which his thoughts were directed, are known, the more thorough will be the conviction of each mind, that every faculty of his mind and every impulse of his heart urged him onward in the path of entire devotion to the welfare and happiness of all he could reach.

No uncertain sound attended his utterances on all matters pertaining to the welfare, care and treatment of the insane, and the mild and pleasant manner in which his opinions were expressed served to carry conviction to many minds which would have resisted a more dogmatic expression, and added force was given by the evident sincerity and devotion to truth and duty which dictated them. No more positive indication of the confidence reposed in his judgment, and the earnestness and sincerity with which he urged his views, can be looked for, than in the collection of the large amount for the erection of the Department for Males of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, by far the larger portion of that amount having been obtained by his personal efforts in direct application to individuals, and any one who will examine that long list will see the uncommon tact and energy displayed by him in his appeals to all classes and conditions of men.

On all matters pertaining to the welfare of the insane his opinions were clear and decided, and formed with a care, discretion and deliberation which those would do well to imitate who so freely criticise and often so summarily reject them. To some of those opinions on matters which have been so much discussed in late years, attention must be given in order to obtain a clear idea of the work which he performed, and the clear head and generous heart which directed that work.

A careful examination of the forty-two reports prepared by him during the long period of his superintendency will make clear the thoroughness and fidelity with which he considered all matters pertaining to the care of the insane. Those reports will be found to contain discussions on every matter which was current at the time they were written, and the calm and judicial manner in which each was treated as it arose will impress the reader with the thought that the truth of what was stated was self-evident to the writer's mind, and influenced all his plans and thoughts. No better guide for a young man entering the specialty could be found to instruct him what he should do and the special duties which he would be called upon to perform.

"It must be remembered that these reports were penned, not in the seclusion of the student's closet, nor as the fruit of that retirement which often produces fair but untried theories, false to philanthropy because untrue to experience, but by one fresh from the hourly duties which pressed upon him, testifying of what he saw, and speaking of what he knew. His exhortations to kindness and consideration, and practical wisdom in the care and treatment of the insane, both acute and chronic, his descriptions of the high character needed in persons occupying any position in an institution specially provided for these sufferers, were written in moments snatched from his unceasing labors, and perhaps just after having his patience and his tenderness sorely tried in soothing the irritable, or comforting the sad, or calming the excited, or possibly, this was still more trying, after being made grievously aware that much of the best aid he could secure in his great task was, at times, sadly below his ideal.

Indeed it was a frequent remark, that he never had any trouble in managing the insane, but that his only difficulties lay in the management of the sane. After his return to his own home from his duties at the Hospital, the interruptions to his literary work and to his correspondence, which often involved much serious thought, and of which from first to last he took unaided charge, answering with his own hand every letter of every kind requiring a reply, were almost endless.

"Friends of patients came for inquiry or to seek merely the comfort his words afforded. Applicants for the position of attendant sought him, brother physicians called to talk over some obscure case, husbands or wives, brothers or sisters, parents or children, brought their afflicted dear ones to ask his counsel in their need—such visits often requiring a long and separate interview with each party—mechanics came to seek their orders about the building or the improvements continually on hand, patients, nurses, employes or officers from the Hospital asked his quick decision upon some knotty point, the decision not always shutting off subsequent discussion.

"It is a curious fact in this life of much correspondence and other work with the pen, that neither at the Hospital, nor in his own home, had he a spot exclusively his own, where either in study or consultation could he be sure of not being, at least, looked in upon, by those with whom he shared his right to each apartment. His library at his own house, was also the dining room and the favorite room of the home; there stood his desk and chair; there he wrote, and planned and thought; there his older children centered all the sweetest and most sacred memories of their early lives; there in later years his younger children and his grandchildren, never dreaming of causing annoyance, for annoyance was never shown or expressed, came to play unchecked, and to seek the unfailing sunshine of his presence."

The employment of mechanical restraint has in late years received more than usual attention in the reaction from its excessive use in England many years since, and on a subject of such

practical importance in the treatment of the insane, it is only just to quote the opinions of one who had the most ample means of testing it, and who, while believing in its use in certain specified cases, rarely, to use the words of Dr. J. C. Bucknill, of England, carried his theory into practice. His uniform testimony, derived from careful observation and experience, for he had seen its modified use while resident physician of the Friends' Asylum, and of the Pennsylvania Hospital in Pine street, and holding that opinion, not because he had formed it, and was reluctant to change it, but simply because he believed that the best interests of a certain class of insane, and that a very limited number required it for their benefit, was, in the language of a resolution of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, adopted in October, 1844: "That the attempt to abandon entirely the use of all means of personal restraint, is not sanctioned by the true interests of the insane." That resolution was drawn by men, who carefully considered the words they used before committing them to paper.

Dr. Kirkbride discussed the subject in his reports, from the year 1841 down to 1877, in which latter year he used the following language as a full summary of his views: "It is an error leading to wrong popular impressions, to speak of any hospital for the insane as being conducted without restraint. There is no such thing, and cannot be. Where an individual is placed under the control of another, even where the control is of the gentlest kind, it can hardly be said he is without restraint. What is meant is, not that a hospital is without restraint, but is without mechanical means of restraint, and these can be omitted anywhere on provision of the proper substitutes. Mechanical restraint is rarely necessary, and only in a few, simple forms, but when it is required, it is a question to be left for the decision of whoever directs the treatment of the patients. No one recognizes more thoroughly than is done here, the impropriety of subjecting the insane to unnecessary restrictions, and that the precise extent to which freedom of action may be carried can only be discovered by careful observation and the study of the peculiarities of every individual patient. The only persons who can

properly decide just how far restrictions shall be carried, and freedom be granted in an institution, are its medical officers, who, having all the responsibility for the results, if at all qualified for their positions, may safely be entrusted with the power to decide all such questions, which should really be regarded as a part of the treatment of the patients."

In the matter of occupation, employment and amusement of the inmates of a hospital, Dr. Kirkbride always held advanced opinions, which the great majority of men have not yet attained to. He held, and held justly, as every reflecting man must admit, that some means of diverting the mind from morbid ideas to more healthy thoughts, was as important as medicine to a disordered bodily system, and that the two must be carefully adjusted to the condition of the individual at the time. He was never satisfied with what he had done, but was always reaching out for something newer and better in addition to those already in use. This idea runs through all his reports, like a golden thread, to brighten and strengthen them. In reference to occupation, a wise caution is given, which should be carefully pondered, if they could do such a thing, by those whose ill-digested opinions indicate a much greater amount of zeal than knowledge.

"Moderate, wisely regulated labor is really serviceable to many of the insane, but hard work, so carried on as to be profitable to any institution, is very rarely of benefit to the patients, while often it is injurious to an unsuspected extent, to a class whom the excitement of disease stimulates to extraordinary exertion. Besides these, there are others who uncomplainingly labor at the tasks assigned them, only because they are urged to do so, when their natural instincts would lead them to enjoy the rest, for which they have a personal craving, and which comes from an actual want of strength dependent on the existence of disease. It is never to be forgotten by those having charge of the insane, that much as the malady differs in form and degree, all of these cases are as truly the subjects of a serious disorder in a delicate organ as are those who have any other sickness, in which the sufferers may be so much better able to describe their true condition, and to secure proper attention to their wishes. In provid-

ing day occupation for the insane, much of it must be very different from the hard work from which alone any material profit can be anticipated. For much the larger portion of the patients, walking or riding through the grounds, or in their vicinity, with all the attractions that can be connected with them, will be much more valuable as remedies and nearly as profitable pecuniarily, as labor usually is. Every one of the many forms of diversion that should always be liberally provided, and all the games, out-doors and in-doors, especially those that give active exercise in the open air, have a positive value, and really contribute more or less to the great objects for which these hospitals are established. The labor problem in regard to the insane is probably best settled by the conclusion, that it is hardly possible to exaggerate the importance of occupation of some kind for every class, but also, that harm, quite as easily as good, may follow employment, in unwise forms, and that a practical knowledge of the whole subject in regard to kind, amount, and the physical and mental conditions of those on whom its effects are tried, is indispensable to secure the best results from its use.

"The necessity for entertaining and amusing the patients of a hospital for the insane, and giving them suitable varieties of occupation—no matter what is the character of the institution—is now generally conceded. For the day-time reasonably good arrangements are commonly made for effecting these objects, but there is a long period in the evening—often amounting to several hours—when out-door pursuits are suspended, and when, without carefully systematized arrangements, the patients go through a dreary period of monotonous and unprofitable existence, for which there is really no necessity. If it is desirable to correct this state of things for one evening of the week, it is equally so for every other. It is no more difficult to make these evening entertainments a daily provision, allowing nothing to interfere with their regular performance, than it is to provide for the numberless other needs that come up at stated intervals in the daily routine of hospital life. In making out the estimate for the provision or support of any of these (State or municipal) institutions, a liberal allowance should always be made for suitable rooms for these purposes, for books and papers, for inex-

pensive pictures for the walls, for many occupations and for evening amusements in all their variety ; and most assuredly no part of the expenditures—although this may do its work ever so quietly—will more certainly contribute to the happiness and improved condition of the patients, or tend more to elevate the character of the institution, giving abundant returns for all the money thus appropriated. These are a part of the varied means which are sure to aid in the restoration of those who are curable, in securing the comfort and happiness of those who are not likely to be restored to health, and the quiet and good order of the household."

To trace out and understand the wonderful influence which he had over his patients, and how he induced them to adopt most readily the plans which he believed would surely advance their restoration and add to their comfort, can best be done by considering his wonderful patience, and his devotion to everything which had a bearing on their welfare, and the sincerity which they felt sure directed every thought and movement. His thoughtful nature was always looking forward to what could be made most steadily and certainly available for their pleasure and for the promotion of their mental and physical health. Until the erection of the Department for Males, he made it a rule to see all the patients under his charge in the morning, and if anything prevented that visit, he was sure to take an opportunity in the course of the after part of the day, to attend to what he considered a most imperative duty. That visit was not a mere perfunctory duty, but he always took occasion to inquire, particularly, into the wants and feelings of the individual, hear all that he had to say, give advice, soothe, cheer, or so impress the person with his interest in him, and his earnest desire to benefit him, that he felt in every way, for the time, relieved, and looked longingly for the return of the same kindly attention. His manner, his address, his patient listening to all complaints and grievances, the gentle tone of his voice and the sympathy which manifested itself in every tone and action, had a wonderful effect on those who were depressed and greatly cast down, as well as on those of an opposite character.

"The peculiar feeling of restfulness in the mere knowledge of his being near, was probably never so fully realized by any, as by his female patients. The mere report in the morning that Dr. Kirkbride was absent for the day, caused a strange sense of loss; his short yearly vacations, only twice during his long service prolonged to four weeks, and generally lasting but three or less than three, were weeks when personal troubles were hardest to bear, and delusions of the mind most consciously painful; while his return, even to those with whom insanity meant blackest despair, brought an emotion more nearly akin to glad relief than any other the sufferers knew."

One, not long since his patient, writes: "I have never known any one whose presence commanded such reverence and love. It was only the other night, I woke in great fright; I was too frightened to call, but I suddenly thought of Dr. Kirkbride, and, as I thought, it seemed to me that I could see him distinctly though the room was dark, and immediately I felt that peace and freedom from danger that Dr. Kirkbride always inspired."

Great as was the interest he took in directing the building and improvements of the place and great as was his ability in these respects, it was within the wards that he found his chief delight, and there also that the strength and the graces of his nature showed themselves more clearly. In 1849, he wrote: "The buildings of the Hospital being now completed, the undersigned looks forward with great satisfaction to the increased amount of time, which he hopes to be able to give to the interior of the establishment, and to perfecting the means of restoring mental and physical health, and smoothing somewhat the rough places on the road of life, of those who must look to this spot as their earthly home." To know him thoroughly, one needed to see him in the wards surrounded by those to whom his life was devoted. Perhaps, also, none knew him so well, or so thoroughly appreciated his power over the insane as those restored to reason under his care; for they had felt and realized in themselves the effects which others had only seen. None prized so truly the value of his words and even of his looks, as those who in the sore distress of mental suffering and despair, or amid the vaga-

ries of a disordered intellect, had felt the soothing, calming influence of a spirit which, whatever its inward struggles might have been, gave to others the impression in all outward show of speech, and look, and tone, that it had reached a centre of repose." "How conscientiously from the first Dr. Kirkbride exercised this personal ministry, more potent, perhaps, in itself than the many remedial agencies, gathered within the institution, such sentences as the following, taken from the earliest reports, give a clear idea: "At the visit of the Physician and his assistant, which commences at half-past eight o'clock in the winter, and at eight o'clock during the summer, every patient is seen and spoken to—unless there is some special reason for an exception." "No favorable opportunity is neglected for personal intercourse with the patients, and for free and friendly conversation on any subject in which they are interested; not excepting, in many instances, their own cases and their own peculiarities or those of their neighbors. Discrimination is, of course, to be observed in this, as in every other matter connected with the insane; with some few patients, it is advisable that no allusion to the character of their disease should ever be made; but with others, advantage results from a different course. Many, by a free and candid conversation on the whole subject, are taught to take a correct view of their disease—to look upon it as upon many other afflictions to which all are liable, and not as a hopeless one, nor as one so terrible that all allusion to it must be carefully avoided." "The officers endeavor never to let a favorable opportunity for direct mental treatment to pass unimproved." "To those familiar with his marvellous perseverance, and acquainted with his methods of unwearied effort in long conversations with his patients, there is much that is suggestive in these quotations."

To the writer of this memoir a lady used the following language: "I attribute my restoration to sound reason entirely to the long, frequent and cheering conversations which Dr. Kirkbride had with me." "Dr. Kirkbride's attitude to the successive Boards of Managers of the Hospital, was always that of one entrusted by others with a great service, and responsible to them for the strictest stewardship. Untiring diligence, unceasing

labor and the greatest conscientiousness were the cheerful price he paid. 'No man ever had more pleasure in his work than I, it was always a pleasure when I was well,' was the remark he made during his last illness in looking back upon his life."

It may not be out of place to quote a saying which he frequently repeated: "My duty is my pleasure," and that seemed to be one of the ruling principles of his life.

The advancement of the Association in every honorable manner, and enunciation by it of sound principles on every subject connected with the welfare of the insane was always prominently before his mind, and his zeal in its cause was characterized by a warmth of feeling which found expression whenever its interests were considered; and he never failed to attend its meetings whenever his health would permit; and he was absent but eight times from the formation of the Association until his last sickness and from these meetings he was kept by sickness in his family, his own ill health or by duties which could not be postponed; and the last message sent by him to the Association only six months before his death showed the earnestness and enthusiasm with which he watched all its proceedings: "Present my kindest regards to all the members, and express to them my great regret that I cannot be with them in body as I will be in spirit and my great interest in all their deliberations;" and to the messenger he added this: "Let me hear from you all about the meeting."

Of the deliverances of the Association the following were prepared by him and adopted with only a few verbal changes: The propositions on construction of hospitals for the insane in 1867; the propositions on the organization of hospitals for the insane in 1853; the resolutions on provisions for all classes of the insane in 1851; the resolutions on heating and ventilation in 1848; the resolutions on overcrowding hospitals for the insane in 1872; those on didactic and clinical instruction on insanity in 1872, and those on the reaffirmation of propositions and resolutions in 1871.

He was a most earnest advocate of every medical, hygienic and moral means, which could be made available for the restoration and comfort of those placed under his charge, and he sought to impress, not only all these views, but all his interest in his patients, on those who had more immediate direction. The rules, which he prepared for the conduct and guidance of those entrusted with the immediate care of the patients, show how zealously he sought to impress his own principles and practice on all who came within the reach of his influence ; but the example of his daily conduct impressed the lesson more deeply than any written code could have done. No one could fail to feel the influence of that genial, gentle nature, constantly before him, and not be impressed with its great worth, and the effect it must necessarily have on all who could be reached by it. When the physical frame could no longer bear the strain put upon it by the constant visits to the wards, in all their detail, the interest was still extended to all, but more directly expended on those whose restoration could be most certainly effected by it.

Of a naturally quick and impulsive temper, that was so effectually under control that none would have suspected its existence, unless some wrong or injury were done to the insane, and then the rebuke came, sharp and decisive ; not in an angry tone, but as the result of that indignation which such a sensitive spirit would naturally feel, on witnessing, or becoming acquainted with any violation of the better instincts of true manhood.

Like all genuinely conscientious natures, he was very sensitive, and seeking with unaffected honesty and truthfulness to do all in his power for the relief of suffering humanity, he was naturally, perhaps unduly, sensitive to the attacks made by many, whose philanthropic zeal was often assumed to make an impression, in their own favor, on their fellow-men. Certain it is, that he was very much harassed by the malicious attacks of designing persons, whose utter lack of true benevolence led them to say and do things, totally at variance with truth and justice. When in feeble health, and endeavoring to do all in his power for the benefit of his fellow-men, he was assailed with very unjust state-

ments, made by those whose misguided zeal led them to the utterance of strictures on his character and professional standing, which their high religious profession should have made them blush to make public, without a more thorough investigation of the true facts. In the minds of those who knew him best, the impression is very deep that those strictures had very much to do in bringing on the condition which ultimately resulted in his death.

Deeply imbued with the religious principles of the Society of Friends, in which he had been educated, while placing little value on various externals of the Society, he endeavored, consistently, to carry out the principles laid down by them, in all his intercourse with his fellow-men. To a disposition, genial, gentle and kind-hearted, he united great decision and determination of character, and, convinced after careful examination that he was right, he kept steadily on in the course he believed to be correct, not deviating in the least from what he believed to be the true line of duty. Generous and liberal-minded, strong in his attachments and friendships, he cherished no feelings of enmity against any, but strove to live in peace and harmony with all; and, when others refused to act harmoniously, quietly going on in the line of duty, avoiding contention while adhering strictly to what he believed to be truth and justice. His generous mind revolted at all pretences and attempts to make the worse appear the better reason, and he scorned all deception.

He possessed a wonderful tact in his intercourse with the insane, which, combined with unfailing good nature and honesty of purpose, gave him great power, which he always used to advance their interests in the fullest manner. Calm and self-possessed in scenes where others were agitated and alarmed, he exercised the happy faculty thus enjoyed, with great judgment and discretion, thus evincing in the clearest manner his power to direct and control. No trait of his character was more prominent than his single-hearted devotion to every good word and work, and in this, and in the earnestness and conscientiousness with

which his work was performed, he strove to follow the example of Him who always went about doing good.

No man enjoyed more heartily social intercourse, and there was a geniality in his humor, and cordiality in all his manner which made him at all times a most agreeable companion, and those who were admitted to intimacy with him know how kind, gentle and sympathetic he was, and how earnestly he strove to do all in his power for the happiness of those to whom he was attached.

Of his domestic relations and the great delight afforded him by those relations this is not the place to speak fully, and it is altogether needless, as the domestic traits of his character have been so clearly and so freely delineated by one who could speak with the fullest knowledge.

During the last four years of his life he was an invalid, and, at the early part of that period, death seemed so near that all preparations were made in anticipation of that event, but he was permitted to enjoy a period of nearly three years of comparative health, but not with the return of his physical strength, and about nine months before the end came he was taken down, and was so reduced that only for a short period was he able to go about without assistance.

He continued to manifest the same earnest interest in all matters pertaining to the care of the insane, and his mind continued clear and free until the closing time which came shortly before midnight of December 16, 1883. His mortal part was laid to rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery on a bleak December day, but his spirit had entered into the "rest that remaineth."

At a special meeting of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, held December 17, 1883, the following was unanimously adopted:

This Board, having received with sincere sorrow, the intelligence of the death of Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, Physician-in-chief and

Superintendent of the Insane Department of this Hospital, desire to place on their records some fitting and grateful tribute to his memory, both for his great services to the institution over which he so long and ably presided, and for his high character and worth as a man. Dr. Kirkbride's first connection with our Hospital was in 1833, when he was elected as a Resident Physician in the Pine Street Hospital, in which capacity he served most acceptably until 1835. When the Insane Department of our Hospital was removed to its present site in West Philadelphia, in 1841, Dr. Kirkbride was elected the first Physician-in chief and Superintendent of that Institution. At this date there was but one hospital building for both male and female patients. In 1859, a new Hospital was constructed for male patients only, female patients being retained in the Hospital first erected, and from thenceforth both were under his care.

From his election to the post above designated, until his death, Dr. Kirkbride has been continuously elected to office as the head of the Department for the Insane, without suggestion or thought, either on the part of the Managers of the Hospital or the public, that a more efficient or faithful administrator of the duties of this important place could be found.

Dr. Kirkbride possessed in a remarkable degree the characteristics and qualities, intellectual and moral, to fit him for the position he so long held. To excellent medical training, and a great aptitude for that branch or specialty to which he devoted so much of his life, he added a nature full of sympathy for human suffering and affliction, great natural benevolence and kindness, rare administrative ability and great rectitude and moral worth. Possessed of those endowments, and with a heart full of zeal in his great work, and a keen insight into the needs of the patients brought under his care, his success in his professional work has been pre-eminent, and his usefulness to the community hard to estimate. It is, therefore,

Resolved, That by the death of Dr. Kirkbride, this Institution has lost a most faithful and efficient officer, whose untiring and well-directed labors for some forty years, have not only met with the cordial approval and co-operation of this Board, but have wrought a high and enduring reputation for him, and for our Hospital for the Insane, over which he so long and ably presided.

Resolved, That Dr. Kirkbride's works for the relief of the insane both in the administration of his office in our Institution, and by his

contributions to medical literature upon the subject of insanity, and its proper treatment, entitle him to rank very high among the benefactors of his race.

Resolved, That by the death of Dr. Kirkbride we lose a friend, bound to us by uncommon ties of affection and esteem. No one could come within the range of his influence, without being made to feel that his rare endowments of head and heart were such as to attract the love and confidence of his fellow-men; and throughout his life he well deserved that love and confidence.

Resolved, That the Board will attend his funeral in a body, and that a copy of these resolutions, attested by the President and Secretary, be forwarded to the family of our departed friend.

WILLIAM BIDDLE,
President.

B. H. SHOEMAKER,
Secretary.

In obedience to the vote of the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital, a handsome marble tablet has been placed in the hall of the Department for insane females, on which is the following inscription :

THIS TABLET
records the affection cherished for the
memory of
THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M. D.,
for more than forty-two years
Physician-in-chief and Superintendent
of the
Hospital for the Insane
in charge of
the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital.
In his official duties, faithful and efficient,
In his profession, skillful and untiring,
In his benevolence, wise and far-seeing,
In his Christian faith, sincere and steadfast,
In every relation of life, tender and unselfish,
He was
In his practical work in this Institution the firm yet most gentle
and sympathetic
Friend and Healer,
and
by his life-long and successful labors in behalf of the insane,
A benefactor of Mankind.
He died
at his home, in the grounds of this Hospital, on the
16th day of 12th month, 1883,
in the
seventy-fifth year of his age.

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